

The Registrar recently resigned. During the two years she was in office (1954-1956), she registered a total of 4 Negroes. During the same period, she registered 55 white persons. The population of the precinct is roughly 2 to 1-- about 1,200 whites and 600 Negroes.

2. Brunswick County, (Bolivia Precinct). In this precinct, the practice of the Registrar, according to his own statement, is to qualify Negroes under the "educational tests" (reading and writing a section of the Constitution), and to register whites under the "grandfather clause."

3. Greene County, (Snow Hill Precinct). In this precinct, the Registrar omitted as to both races the requirement pertaining to reading and writing a part of the Constitution. However, as to Negro registrants, he demanded that they answer a list of 20 questions. The questions required them to name all candidates running for office in the county, to define Primary and General Elections, to state whether they were members of the NAACP, and whether they would support the NAACP should that organization attack the United States Government, etc. White applicants were required to answer no such questions.

In most of these situations civil remedies would enable the Government to take affirmative action to deal with attempts at what amount to mass disenfranchisement of Negroes in time to be effective. In a civil proceeding for preventive relief or for a declaratory judgment the constitutionality of the election practice could be quickly determined and appropriate relief awarded. Criminal remedies at best come after the harm has been done. Jurors are reluctant to indict and convict local officials in a criminal prosecution even though they recognize the illegality of what has been done. As a result, not only are the election officials freed but also the Government is not able to get an authoritative determination regarding the constitutionality of what was done.